



Padre Island National Seashore **SandDollar**



Friday, August 6, 2004

Superintendent

It is hard to believe that we are saying goodbye already to so many of the wonderful seasonal employee's, interns and volunteers. Their contributions to the operation of the Seashore are notable and very much appreciated.

I am happy to report that my moving van left Moose Wyoming yesterday, followed today by two members of the family. We are looking forward to getting our home set up, and enjoying all the attributes of South Texas.

This has been a summer of firsts in several ways. As you all know, the first ever prescribed fire operation at PAI S was conducted recently. Although long planned, for one reason or another, there were always obstacles that prevented us from executing this important burn. As chance would have it, circumstances came together unexpectedly that allowed us to implement the burn plan. Thanks to everyone who adjusted priorities and made the extra effort to get the burn accomplished. Other important firsts like the record setting nesting season of Kemp's riley sea turtles along the Texas coast, and our largest ever hatchling release (attended by more than 400 visitors) are testament of years of hard work.

Thank you; your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 8/09	– In the Park; Mtg. in Town
Tuesday, 8/10	– In the Park; Squad
Wed., 8/11	– In the Park
Thurs., 8/12	– In the Park
Friday, 8/13	– In the Park

Safety Notes--

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.
Make it a safe day.

Employees Association News -

Administration

Ruby **STILL** has two 5 drawer filing cabinets. One is legal size and locks with a key. It will need some work to make the lock work, but this should be no problem with a little elbow grease. The other cabinet is letter size and does not lock. Both cabinets are a **very attractive** green gun metal color and are in **fabulous** condition. Ruby will carry them to your office at no charge!

Thirteen applications have been received for the Supervisory Park Ranger LE position.

FEGLI Open Season Begins in September

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary

plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

Changes Are Coming to the TSP Loan Program

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has announced that effective July 1, 2004; three changes will be made to the TSP loan program. They are: (1) A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan; (2) Two general purpose loans at the same time will no longer be permitted (however, one can have both a general purpose and a residential loan); and (3) Upon paying off a TSP loan, the TSP participant will not be eligible to apply for another loan of the same type for 60 days.



UNIFORMS

Within the next 2 1/2 weeks, Cargo Pants and Convertible trousers will appear on the uniform website. Employees will be able to order these items, but they will not be physically in stock with VF Solutions. It may take about 2 months before employees will be able to receive these items. We are putting them on the website now so they can order them before the ordering period ends on August 21st. I would not recommend that seasonals order these items yet. They are not in stock. It will take at least 2 months before these items will be shipped out to employees.

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/28/2004	Monday	1:00-4:00
Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/29/2004	Tuesday	1:00-4:00
Gateway Communities: Keys to Success	07/08/2004	Thursday	12:30-3:30
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering	07/14/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	07/15/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	07/19/2004	Monday	1:30-3:30
Resolving Performance Issues	08/10/2004	Tuesday	2:00-2:00
Dealing with Misconduct	08/10/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Administrative Grievances: What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00 -4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00

The trailer will be used on August 10, 25 for TEL training.

New Courses:

August 25th NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Everyone Can Make a Difference!

September 2nd Building a Partnership Workplace

The below course has been postponed:

DOI Ethics - Financial Disclosure - was scheduled for July 29th - has been rescheduled to September 8th.

Last Day to Order Uniforms is August 21!

Facility Management

The new fuel system is not totally set up yet. Some of the components would not work with the new system.

However, you can get fuel out of tank #4. Instructions are located at the tanks. Thanks for your patience and cooperation.

Jim and Mary Kobus have found out that their new grandbaby will be a boy. The baby is due in December.

Interpretation



The big news from Interpretation is that Juan will be half way around the world for a vacation from August 2 to 23 that includes getting married! Juan's bride is a native of the Philippines and her name is "Nora".

Nora has been working recently in Saipan where she met Juan's sister, who thought so much of Nora that she introduced Juan to her! They are looking forward to a long future together in Corpus Christi after their wedding in Saipan on August 12. Following the wedding they will spend time in the Philippines so Juan can explore Nora's home country before returning to Texas. Hopefully he will bring her out one day so that we can all get an opportunity to meet her.

If you field any calls or inquiries for the Chief of Interp, please refer them to Buzz until he returns.



Phil has two brand-new, never worn, long-sleeve dress shirts to get rid of because the collar is too tight. These are a couple of years old and therefore he cannot return them. If anyone would like them, please contact Phil at the Visitor Center if you're interested.

Protection

A BIG welcome to Patrick Gagnon who arrived in the park today. It seems like forever since Patrick was hired, but he is now finally here. Patrick finished his Ranger FTO program at Buffalo National River on Sunday and sped down to Texas arriving a day early. Everyone should know that Patrick is a dedicated chap so much, he pushed back his wedding date in order to get down here and start working. The lucky woman in Patrick's life is Michelle. Their wedding date is set for September. Congratulations and welcome to you both!

Job offers went out August 5 to Bruce Gagnon and Timothy Havens. Both accepted offers to come to PAIS. EOD dates are being negotiated. In case you are wondering, Bruce is in fact the brother of Patrick. Bruce comes from the Natchez Trace Parkway with previous assignments at Shenandoah National Park, Yosemite National Park, and Acadia National Park. Tim comes to us from Coronado National Memorial via Zion National Park, and Grant Teton National Park.

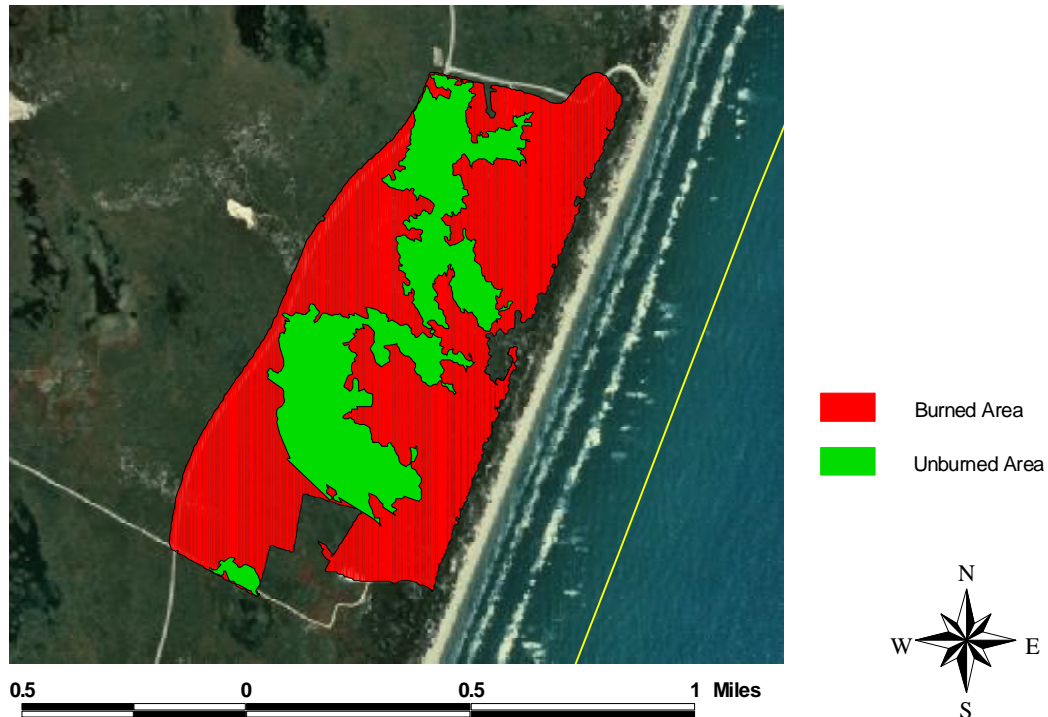
Thanks to all who participated in the law enforcement program review. A lot of good recommendations and comments came from both the rangers and division chiefs who participated. The park will receive a written report in the next two weeks that will be shared with staff.

Resources Management

Projects:

- Sunday, July 25 a fire was reported north of the park boundary. The fire was caused by a bonfire that got out of control. Park personnel assisted local firefighters with the control of the fire. 652.57 acres burned.
- Thursday, July 29, 2004, PAIS and BITH fire management teams conducted a prescribed burn at the Novillo Line Camp. 470 acres were treated creating a mosaic burn pattern. This was the first prescribed burn at PAIS! The map below indicates the burned and unburned areas of the fire. Thanks to everyone that assisted with the burn.

Novillo Prescribed Burn July 29, 2004



Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

Staff are working primarily on a variety of projects in the laboratory and office.

Patrols to the Mansfield Channel are being conducted once per day and will continue through the end of September. Linda Morehead is patrolling on Sundays through Wednesdays and volunteers on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Nests 38 and 40 released by park staff:

Nest 38 - released 88 hatchlings from 90 eggs; including 45 released at 10:00 pm on 3 August and 43 released at 7:00 pm on 4 August

Nest 40 - released 88 hatchlings from 94 eggs; all released between 8:00 pm on 2 August and 2:00 am on 3 August

This year, we held 12 hatchling releases that were open to the public and over 2,000 visitors attended. The last possible chance for a public release is sometime between August 7 and 11, when nests 41 and 42 are due to be released. However, if the turtles are go into their frenzy at an unpredictable time or at night, then a public release will not be possible for them. We will not schedule a public release for the green turtle clutch since hatchlings of this species are typically released at night.

**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT
THE
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

Nest # (Species)	Date Found	Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates
41 (Kemp's ridley)	June 21	August 7-12
42 (Kemp's ridley)	June 22	August 7-13
43 (Green)	July 1	August 20-25